

February 27, 2002

House Passes Broadband Bill

Legislation puts broadband providers on level playing field

Washington, D.C.- Today, the U.S. House of Representatives passed the Internet Freedom and Broadband Deployment Act H.R. 1542. The bill will increase the deployment of high-speed Internet access and increase competition within the broadband market. Congressman Todd Akin issued the following statement regarding the passage of H.R. 1542:

"I have listened to and weighed the opinions of many citizens and businesses on both sides of the argument. I have listened to many of those interested in telephone, cable and information technology. I have heard from interests such as AT&T that oppose the bill, and from those such as SBC and the Communications Workers of America that support it. On balance, I believe that consumers will benefit by putting telephone and cable companies on a level playing field.

"Increased competition within the broadband market will encourage expanded services and lower prices. This will improve access to broadband and mean a multi billion-dollar boost to our economy by helping many small and high-tech businesses that will benefit from high-speed Internet access. It will ultimately mean expanded choices and lower prices for the public including consumers in rural areas who are now waiting for access."